



## **PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA**

**Monday, March 5, 2012**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Public Works**

**Conference Room**

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### **Call to Order**

### **Roll Call**

### **Adopt Agenda**

Approval of February 6, 2012 Minutes

### **Old Business**

1. Tennis Court Replacement
2. Update Parks & Trails Master Plan Process

### **New Business**

3. Adult Softball and Sand Creek Park
4. Sunrise Pond Park Shelter

### **Other Business**

### **Adjourn**



**Park & Rec - Regular**

**Meeting Date:** 03/05/2012

**SUBJECT:** Approval of February 6, 2012 Minutes

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**Attachments**

**February12**

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## COON RAPIDS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012

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The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order on February 6, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Members Present: Commissioners Tim Arntson, Mary Lou Hecht, Mike Jacobson, Gen Sand, and Ryan McAlpine.

Members Absent: Commissioners Steven Head and Neal Livermore.

Also Present: Gregg Engle, Parks Supervisor and Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator.

### 1. ROLL CALL

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Gregg Engle acknowledged roll call.

### 2. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2012 AGENDA

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Mr. Engle suggested adding Gregg DeRusha who is here with the American Little League as new business.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JACOBSON, TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 6, 2012 AGENDA AS AMENDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 3. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 9, 2012 MINUTES

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Mr. Engle requested a correction on page 3, paragraph 5: "There is a 50/50 grant of ~~\$18,000~~ \$36,000 for the trail by Home Depot..." "The city's portion of this is ~~\$9,000~~ \$18,000."

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ARNTSON, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 9, 2012 MEETING MINUTES WITH THE NOTED CORRECTIONS. MOTION PASSED 2-3 (COMMISSIONERS HECHT, SAND AND JACOBSON ABSTAINED).

### 4. NEW BUSINESS

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Greg DeRusha of American Little League from Sand Creek spoke about the city's website. He stated that the web site talks about National Little League and then talks about all three leagues. He stated that this should all just say Little League. He stated that t-ball information is hard to come by and he receives a lot of calls on it. He asked that this information be added to the website. He stated that the participation age has changed and was dropped down last year to four-year-olds for t-ball. He stated that the

city does not have to promote this but he is making them aware. He reported that they have a rookie league now with four and five-year-olds playing on it. He noted that 60 four-year-olds were signed up last year.

Chairman Arntson asked what time of day this is offered. Mr. Gunderson stated that it is in the morning. It was established to complement the Little League.

Mr. DeRusha stated that all three leagues have t-ball. Central Little League uses Aspen Park, National Little Leagues uses Riverview Park and American Little League uses Sand Creek Park. He reported that National and Central Little League had 700 kids total. He stated that American Little League includes Andover. Mr. Gunderson stated that Andover owns their own fields. He stated that National and Central Little League have had discussions of combining.

Mr. DeRusha reviewed the history of Little League organizations in Coon Rapids. He indicated that most revenue for American Little League is based on registration and one fundraiser. He stated that they began expanding into Andover to stay fluid. He reviewed that American Little League just gave Central Little League an area of their registration boundary to increase their participant numbers. He commented that Anoka does not have a Little League program. He explained that Andover has their own baseball leagues which includes traveling. He noted that people who come to play in Coon Rapids are looking for more of a recreational experience. He stated that their program is well run, is at one park and has concessions. He stated that many people think the Coon Rapids Little League is organized by the city and do not understand that it is multiple organizations. He reviewed that it is a nonprofit effort. Each league has its own funding. He commented that American Little League has liability insurance which costs \$3,200 a year. He commented that HOM Furniture is a big sponsor for their annual raffle. He stated that the Lions have helped them before as well. He added that softball field #5 has been used on some Saturdays which has been helpful.

Chairman Arntson asked if Mr. DeRusha had any other comments. Mr. DeRusha asked about Sand Creek reconstruction.

Mr. Engle stated that they will be adding trails and things are in the initial planning stages for reconstruction. He commented that over the next 1-1/2 years they will move forward on ideas. He stated that Mr. DeRusha and his organization will be considerations in the planning process.

Mr. Gunderson stated that a vote on the parks master plan is going before Council soon and they will move forward based on decisions that are made. He stated that consultants are being hired to look at the master plan process. He explained that the number of fields and the layout at Sand Creek will be reviewed.

Mr. DeRusha expressed his concern that the Little League space at Sand Creek will be taken over by the city. Mr. Engle stated that it is not in the best interest of the city to do this and he does not see this happening.

Mr. Gunderson stated that traffic flow and parking are considerations that will be looked at. He added that the number of practice fields is something they will be cooperating with the American Little League over. He commented that a consideration of the master plan will be that a majority of the youth who play sports live north of Sand Creek. He noted that there are no ball fields north of Sand Creek. He reported that they will look at whether a new complex should be added in the northern area of the city.

#### 4. STAFF REPORTS

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##### A. Update on Parks Master Plan Process.

Mr. Gunderson stated that staff was impressed with the Commissions input into selecting a consultant and with their questions in the process. He noted that the recommendation went out on Thursday. He reviewed that the Council meeting is on Wednesday. He noted that the appropriation for the Lions Park electronic sign is also on the agenda.

##### B. Ice Skating and Warming Houses.

Mr. Gunderson stated that the warming houses were closed on Friday after a forecast which called for three days of 40 degree weather. He stated that they visited the ice to make this determination. He agreed that the Coon Rapids Ice Center is still open. He noted that the schedule for the rinks availability is live on the city's website. He noted that many organizations are practicing at the refrigerated rink because other ice quality is poor. He added that the lights are off now as they are closed. He commented that he would like to have a followup meeting with the hockey association about their involvement. He added that positive aspects are that there were more eyes on the rink, and the warming houses were cleaner.

Mr. Engle stated that they will update the Board on the hockey association followup meeting.

##### C. Projects for 2012.

Mr. Engle stated that there is a new assistant city manager who will be with human resources. He noted that they had performance measures which are being implemented. He stated they are being asked to look at strategic areas to benefit the community. He provided a list which includes updating trails and open space. He added that this will be an ongoing goal which will enhance the community. He reviewed a list of 2012 projects. He stated that they will be installing the playground at Nelson Park. He added that this should be installed in April and May and is awaiting financing. He commented that they

will be changing over the Lions/Coon Creek sign to electronic which is being approved from Council. He noted that the Riverwind Rec Center would like a new community sign. He commented that soccer complex field 3 and 4 reconditioning are next in the schedule. He reviewed that improving conditions at ball fields is done on a regular maintenance schedule for conditioning. He commented that 15 tobacco free signs are to be replaced throughout the parks as they are aging. He noted that at Sunrise Pond the playground is in and a shelter and trees will be added. He indicated that the mowing schedule is being reevaluated to reduce operations costs. He stated that pulling out old skating rinks at Woodcrest Park has been a long term goal. He added that reconditioning the tennis courts is a goal he would like addressed because about 18 of them are in bad shape. He would like direction on which ones to resurface. He talked about using a new product at Wintercrest Park which would reduce the weed whipping schedule and reduce maintained costs. He stated that on April 28, 85 high school baseball players will be involved in a community service day to install the new fence guard. He noted that replacing buoys in the fishing peer is a project that was left from last year. He added that continuing to monitor trends in outdoor skating will be a goal. He stated that these are goals to be completed in 2012.

## 5. OPEN FORUM

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Mr. Gunderson stated that he and Mr. Engle attended the meeting for the Polar Plunge at Crooked Lake Beach. He stated that over 400 people will be involved. He commented that there is street parking and two buss locations. Mr. Engle added that the sheriff's department and Special Olympics are involved. He noted that the Park Department is quite involved in this.

Mr. Gunderson commented that around 1000 people are expected total at the event. He noted that over \$50,000 has been raised. He noted that this is an event that focuses on their parks.

## 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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Mr. Engle stated that the grant for Wedgewood Trail off of Round Lake Boulevard is to add a solar light that is activated by pushing a button. He stated that this is the first of its kind in Minnesota and area cities are taking note. He stated that this was funded by the DNR Ship Grant. He noted that this will be a trail enhancement.

Chairman Arntson asked for an update on the bridge at the Wexford trail. Mr. Engle explained that there is no information to report on this as no decisions have been made. He stated that it is a county project.

Commissioner McAlpine asked about Riverwind Park and the girl scouts who presented a project there. Mr. Engle stated that there have been more ongoing discussions and things are starting to move forward. He offered to provide a future update.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

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MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HECHT, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregg Engle  
Parks Supervisor



**Park & Rec - Regular**

**1.**

**Meeting Date:** 03/05/2012

**Subject:** Tennis Court Replacement

**From:** Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

Staff has concluded conducting audits of the City owned and maintained tennis courts. Cost estimates have been collected on multiple styles of surface. Decisions will need to be made along with the parks and trails master plan for the future of tennis courts in Coon Rapids. The school district resurfaced 18 courts in Coon Rapids in the last year.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC VISION**

This item relates to the Open Space/Recreation section of the City's long term strategic vision. Parks and Recreation amenities add to the quality of life in Coon Rapids.

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## **Park & Rec - Regular**

**2.**

**Meeting Date:** 03/05/2012

**Subject:** Update Parks & Trails Master Plan Process

**From:** Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

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### **INFORMATION:**

At the February 8th City Council meeting Council approved the contract with Brauer & Associates to conduct the parks and trails master plan update. Brauer & Associates is the firm that prepared the original Parks, Open Space and Trail System Plan in 2001. Brauer & Associates has extensive experience working with the City on that project and similar projects since. They have completed plans for three park improvement projects and also completed an Athletic Field Use Study for the City in 2005. The Parks and Recreation Commission felt that Brauer & Associates was best qualified to complete the update to our plan.

The process will include stakeholder, taskforce, & public meetings as well as surveys to eventually make recommendations to the Parks & Recreation Commission and ultimately the City Council.

Brauer & Associates is working under the following proposed schedule:

- Project Start-Up February, 2012
- Task Force Assembly Early March, 2012
- Resource and Demographic Assessment February - April, 2012
- Public Outreach and Input March - September, 2012
- Summary of Finding June, 2012
- Draft System Plan August 1, 2012
- Performance & Parity Evaluation Planning, Fiscal Planning June - September, 2012
- Final Master Plan Approve October 1

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC VISION**

This item relates to the Open Space/Recreation section of the City's long term strategic vision. Establishing and funding a Park Master Plan ensures that resources are available to maintain and sustain our overall park system in a manner expected by the community.

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**Park & Rec - Regular**

**3.**

**Meeting Date:** 03/05/2012

**Subject:** Adult Softball and Sand Creek Park

**From:** Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

Sand Creek Park has been host to adult and youth athletics for nearly 40 years. The facility has many of the original amenities and structures. Specifically the softball fields have fallen behind to technologies in sports. There are beginning to be questions about the safety of Adult Softball players. Softball has gone to use of yellow-optic softball and white softballs are now obsolete. The yellow balls are hard to see in the lighting at Sand Creek due to the color of the bulbs and height of the lights. Also bat technologies have gone to a level where the home-run fences are no longer at proper distances for good play. The bats also can cause the ball to return at speed nearing 100 MPH toward players. The lighting and base distances can make for dangerous playing conditions at times.

Coon Rapids continues to be a desirable league for more than 150 teams annually. The memo is meant to draw attention to the needs to keep Sand Creek Athletic Complex as a viable option going forward.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC VISION**

This item relates to the Open Space/Recreation section of the City's long term strategic vision. Adult softball league add to the quality of life for Coon Rapids area residents.

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**Park & Rec - Regular**

**4.**

**Meeting Date:** 03/05/2012

**Subject:** Sunrise Pond Park Shelter

**From:** Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

In 2011 Coon Rapids collaborated and a developer to construct the park at Crescent Ponds development. The park was recently named Sunrise Pond Park. The park includes trails and a playground at this time. A shelter is planned to be chosen and installed as part of the 2012 budget cycle. The Parks Maintenance Supervisor will lead a discussion on plans for the shelter.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC VISION**

This item relates to the Open Space/Recreation section of the City's long term strategic vision. Quality amenities add to the park experience and quality of life for Coon Rapids residents.

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